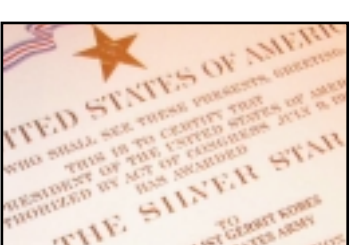


News



Father and son...
Father pins Silver Star on son. See story on Page 5A.



AFAP news...
AFAP continues to help improve Soldiers quality of life. See story on Page 1B.

Sports



Stewart Bball...
Ft. Stewart plays tough in tourney. See story on Page 5B.

Post Update

31D casualty...
The Defense Department announced Wednesday the death of a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Pfc. Danny L. Anderson, 29, of Corpus Christi, Texas, died Feb. 27 in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from small arms fire.
Anderson was assigned to the 26th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, as a food service specialist. He entered the Army May 22, 2003, and arrived at Fort Stewart Oct. 15, 2003.

Hwy. 47 construction...
Reconstruction of a sharp curve and widening of the roadway on Ga. Hwy. 47 between Ga. Hwy 144 and the entrance to Gate 3 here has begun.
The speed limit in the area is reduced to 15 m.p.h. The speed limit is posted and will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of workers and motorists traveling through the construction area.
The road is reduced to one-lane during daylight hours and will be manned by flagmen. The roadway will re-open at night to two lanes. The work is expected to be complete in approximately two weeks.

Golf tournament...
The Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Committee is sponsoring the 1st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held at Cherokee Rose Golf Course, 225 Cherokee Trail, Hinesville, Ga., Mar. 12 at 1 p.m. to raise money for scholarships.
For more information Ray Dent at 876-6782.

Guide

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File Photo

No one coming or going from a forward observation base is exempt from having their vehicles identified.

48th receives security training

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Roy Henry
Ga. National Guard PAO

FORWARD OBSERVATION BASE, Iraq — While there are new features to the training undertaken by the 48th Brigade Combat Team for Iraq, there are others that haven't changed since it deployed as the 48th Infantry Brigade to Bosnia-Herzegovina nearly five years ago.
One of those things that seem to remain a constant in the lives of Soldiers, whether it's a peacekeeping mission or war, is the need for security where one lives. This is especially true when it comes to vehicle and foot traffic in and out of the Forward Observation Base, or "FOB" for short.
More than 4,000 members of the 48th are

getting a taste of what it's like to man and defend such bases by living and working out of those set up around the Fort Stewart training area.
"It doesn't matter where you are, the criticalness of keeping the bad guys out of 'your house' never changes," said Sgt. Thomas Resha, a scout with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry.
Resha is one of those Soldiers who went to Bosnia with the brigade.
"The lessons learned there, combined with those we're learning here will help us 'tweak' the way we do this once we're in-country," Resha said.
Under the watchful eye of Sgt. 1st Class Roy Taylor of the 5th Training Support Battalion, members of the 121st manned the entrance to FOB Taylor, named for Fort

Stewart's Taylor Drop Zone. Security teams spread out around the entrance as well to ward off anyone who might decide to camp's perimeter and to protect those checking the vehicles and their occupants.
A minute into a training scenario, a bluish-silver van with two men inside pulls up to the first barrier. Soldiers approach the vehicle from all sides while an interpreter flanked by bodyguards tells the occupants to produce their identification cards or papers.
That accomplished, the driver is told to move his vehicle forward and then to stop it in an area separate from the road leading into the FOB.
"Here is where it can get really hairy," Taylor said. "Not only do they have to pay attention to who's in the vehicle, but also to

See Security 14A

Iraqi Army's 200 member 41st Bde ready for missions

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Andrew Miller
100th MPAD PAO

BAGHDAD — The 41st Brigade of the Iraqi Army was activated Mar. 3 during a ceremony at an Iraqi Army training facility here.
More than 200 Iraqi Soldiers, who make up the headquarters element of the brigade, participated in the ceremony. Members of the brigade — who one U.S. officer called "the bravest Soldiers on the planet" — have trained since November with U.S. Soldiers from the 98th, 1st Cavalry and 3rd Infantry divisions.
This month, the headquarters of the 41st Brigade will conduct a command post exercise, an evaluation that leaders from both forces will use to determine the overall readi-

ness of the unit. If the unit is successful, it could be assigned to a sector of Baghdad in as few as six months, said the 98th Div.'s Lt. Col. Ed Tennent, the senior trainer of the headquarters element.
When ready, the 41st Brigade will assume responsibility of an area east of the Tigris River that includes Sadr City.
The responsibility of that sector currently belongs to the 3rd Inf. Div.'s 2nd Brigade Combat Team.
While the brigade's readiness to operate independently is still being evaluated, the courage of its Soldiers goes unquestioned.
"These are some of the bravest Soldiers on the planet," said Tennent.
They have been threatened, run off the

See Activate 14A



Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, listens as Maj. Gen. Mudhir Al Mawlla, of the 41st Brigade, discusses the brigade's significance during a ceremony honoring the activation of the unit Mar. 3.

Maj. Gen. Webster briefs local media on 3rd Inf. Div., Task Force Baghdad issues

Spc. Robert Adams
Frontline Staff

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, spoke to local media at Fort Stewart by way of teleconference from his position in Iraq.
The 3rd Inf. Div., which assumed the Task Force Baghdad mission from the 1st Cavalry Division Feb. 27, has begun conducting full-spectrum operations.

Teleconference notes
Gen. Webster's opening statement:
"I appreciate the support that everybody is giving to our Soldiers and families back there in this tough time. It is always hard when Soldiers are deployed away from their families and friends."
"We are a part of TF Baghdad, which is a multi-force division."
"Full spectrum operations include everything from peacekeeping and presence patrols on foot or armored humvees all the way up to

include high intensity combat with tanks, Bradley's and attack helicopters when necessary."
"We are responsible for conducting offensive and defensive operations for stability and security and for conducting civil military operations for the Iraqi people."
"All of this is designed to defeat the insurgents and criminals that we are fighting and to help the Iraqi government stand up on its own and have a secure environment for the Iraqi people to live."
"Also, they can get on with their responsibilities, like writing a constitution, voting on it nationally and then electing a permanent government to serve its full term by Dec. 2005."
"Our priorities are to secure the area of operation's, which includes Baghdad, and the surrounding area, train the Iraqi security forces to take over that responsibility from us and protect our Soldiers as we do this."
"We are currently operating with an Iraqi Brigade under our control. Mar. 2nd a new brigade headquar-

ters was formed, and presently we have seven Iraqi battalions operating throughout the division working for our brigade commanders in helping to secure Iraq for their people."
"The country is still on a high since their successful elections on Jan. 30. The Iraqi people braved all sorts of intimidation and deaths that day to exercise their right to vote."
"Many Iraqi men told me that they voted for their children and that their wives and daughters led them there to do so."
"We already have a number of successes in terms of arrests and captures of terrorists and criminals."
"Our troops feel that we are doing the right thing to help the Iraqi people find freedom and democracy."
Ques. — *What is the casualty report?*
Ans. — "We have had a total of 18 Soldiers killed during operations here in TF Baghdad of a total of

See Media 15A



Sgt. Jonathan M. Stack

The cost of freedom...
Warrior's Walk — *The living memorial on Fort Stewart that represents the 3rd Infantry Division that have been killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. There will be a tree dedication Mar. 16.*

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

CENTCOM News

Operation River Blitz security measures continue

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, Iraq — Enhanced security measures will continue in Al Anbar province to maintain the level of security reached during Operation River Blitz.

“We want to maintain the momentum, and build on the success of Operation River Blitz,” said Maj. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. “Our forces, in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces, will maintain enhanced operations to continue to keep the pressure turned-up on the insurgency.”

During Operation River Blitz, Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces detained more than 400 suspected terrorists and seized numerous weapons caches throughout Al Anbar Province. The number of terrorist attacks dropped significantly during the operation.

Operation River Blitz began Feb. 20 at the request of the Iraqi government to ensure a peaceful transition of power between the interim Iraqi government and the Iraqi transitional government. The combined operation was designed to enhance security in the province by increasing the Iraq Security and Coalition Force presence in the population centers along the Euphrates River. The operation concluded Mar. 5.

A curfew was set, and access control points on routes leading into the provincial capital of Ar Ramadi were established during the operation. The access control points have proven very effective in preventing weapons and terrorists from entering the city.

One killed, two wounded at Baghdad checkpoint

BAGHDAD — At approximately 8:55 p.m. on Mar. 4, Coalition Forces assigned to the Multi-National Force-Iraq fired on a vehicle that was approaching a Coalition checkpoint in Baghdad at a high rate of speed. The recently freed Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was an occupant in the vehicle and was apparently injured. It appears a second person in the automobile was killed. Ms. Sgrena is being

treated by Coalition Forces medical personnel. The incident is under investigation and additional details will be provided when they become available.

Iraqi police graduate 27 SWAT officers

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Police graduated 27 officers from the Special Weapons and Tactics training course Mar. 3.

The officers completed a specialized four-week training curriculum that places a heavy emphasis on weapons training and includes training in dynamic entries, mechanical breaching, diversionary



devices, sniper training, intelligence and surveillance, offensive driving skills, and human relations and police conduct.

The Provincial SWAT teams provide a provincial-level, high end, rapid response, tactical unit responsible for high-risk arrest and hostage rescue. They provide special weapons and tactics capability to the provincial or city police commander.

To date, 156 officers have completed the course and are operating as SWAT teams in various areas throughout Iraq.

Iraqi police graduate 292 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Police Service graduated 292 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility, Mar. 3, as part of the Iraqi government’s ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Kidnapping Investigations with 27 graduates, Basic Criminal Investigations with 63 graduates, Interview & Interrogations with 41 graduates, Organized Crime Investigations with 58

graduates, Incident Command System with 32 graduates, Internal Controls with 44 graduates, and Executive Leadership with 27 graduates.

The Kidnapping Investigations course provides students with basic theory and practice of crisis negotiation. The course explores the psychological underpinnings of crisis situations and instructs students on law enforcement priorities in a kidnapping crisis situation.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation.

Participants also receive instruction and hands-on

training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques.

Interviews & Interrogations covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations.

The Organized Crime Investigations course is taught by trainers from the Federal Bureau of Investigations and focuses on international cooperation on crimes associated with organized groups.

Topics covered in the course include money laundering, gambling, conspiracy, alien smuggling, witness protection, electronic surveillance and working with informants.

Incident Command teaches first response techniques to a crime or accident scene, how to coordinate agencies responding to the scene and managing assets at the scene.

Internal Controls provides training on how to deal with personnel complaints and allegations, as well as police conduct in general.

Training includes the pro-

cessing of complaints and conducting follow-up investigations to determine the facts of allegations made against members of the Iraqi Police Service.

Executive Leadership, designed for senior police leaders, covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting.

Other areas covered in the course are visionary leadership organizational values, interpersonal communication skills, motivational techniques and strategies, along with strategic planning.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an 8-week basic training course for new recruits or a 3-week ‘transitional integration program’ course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

Iraq’s emergency response unit graduates 72 police officers

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Police graduated 72 police officers from the Emergency Response Unit course Mar. 3.

The officers completed an intensive 4-week basic ERU program of instruction with a strong focus on weapons training and handling, defensive tactics and physical fitness.

The course includes instruction on human relations and police organizations.

The ERU provides a national level, high-end, rapid response law enforcement tactical unit responsible for high-risk arrest, hostage rescue and explosive ordnance disposal.

Three companies are currently operational,

ERU has conducted a number of successful missions on national level anti-Iraqi force targets.

They have also provided support to other Iraqi Ministry of Interior forces.

During this period they have participated in combat operations in Fallujah and ongoing counterinsurgency operations.

The graduating officers will be integrated into the ERU’s operational companies.

They will join 344 prior ERU graduates who will attend ERU Advanced training in the coming months.

Marne Voices

The Frontline

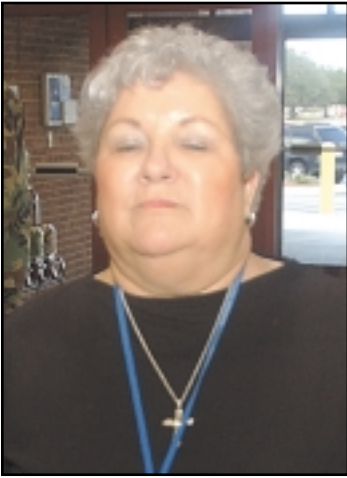
Readers respond to the question:

“Who is the most influential female in your life and why?”

“My girlfriend because we've been through tough times and she's got me through them.”



Spc. Anthony Deatherage
133 Signal Battalion



"My mom because she instilled values, ethics and love in my everyday life and raised me in a Christian home -- something I'm able to give my children."

Glenda Giddens
Education Center

"My mother, because no matter what the situation has been, she's always there for me. It's that motherly tough love -- she's in Afghanistan right now."

Capt. Daryl Kimbrough
2nd Bn, 345th Training Support Battalion
Fort Jackson, S.C.



"My mom because she's gone through a lot of hard times and she's stayed strong and taught me how to stay strong."

Sgt. Chevon Marsh
133 Signal Battalion

"My mother, because she taught me everything I need to know about being a wife, a mother and a woman."

LeAn Sentz
Military Spouse



"My mother because she's always been a positive role model for me. She'll be there for you in the good times and the bad -- your father may not be always."

Capt. Derek Vinson
2nd Bn, 345 Training Support Battalion
Fort Jackson, S.C.

Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Chad W. Lake**, C Troop, 5-7 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Cory J. Cousins, Division Fires Brigade, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7066. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Renee Knox Jr.**, C Troop 5-7 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Eric Haynes, 1st BDE 5-7 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-1515/2179. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Choi Min Soo**, HHT 6-8 CAV, 4th BDE, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Ryan McDermott, Rear Detachment Commander 6-8 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-6752. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Giles Landon Scott**, HHT 6-8 CAV, 4th BDE, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Patrick Kiernan, HHC 4-64 AR, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-0120. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. David J. Brangman**, A Co, 3-69 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Maya C. Best, HHB, Division Fires Brigade, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-9459. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Michael Shawn Deem**, 1st Detachment, 3rd Sig. Co., STB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Tiffany Ivy, HHOC, STB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-8227. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Dakotah Gooding**, C Company, 5-7 Cav, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Bonnie M. Cowles, 260th QM Battalion, HHD, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. 31409, (912) 352-5689. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Danny L. Anderson**, 26th FSB (WJAUFO), Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Leyland, 2-3 BTB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7484. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Carlton Newman**, b Co, 1-115th IN (L) Building 10213, 15th Street, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Nathan A. Harlan, Executive Officer, b Co., 1-115th IN (L) Building 10213, 15th Street, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-6153. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Adriana N. Salem**, A Co. 3FSB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Daniel Presutti, D Battery, 1-41 FA, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7047 or 272-7377. (1)

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'Can Do' 15th infantrymen distribute shoes to kids

Story and Photos by
Spc. Ben Brody
2nd Brigade Combat Team

SADR CITY, Iraq — Operation Happy Feet brought smiles to children of Sadr City as Soldiers of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry distributed sneakers at Marakah al-Taf Elementary School Feb. 28.

Working in conjunction with Civil Affairs, Soldiers purchased 500 pairs of shoes from a local vendor to give out at the northeastern Baghdad school, according to Capt. Timothy Terese, commander, B Co. "We go around to lots of schools in the area, basically every day, to make sure they have the proper equipment to function," said 1st Lt. Jason Rocks, fire support officer and effects coordinator, B Co. "Blackboards, pencils, paper — we check that they are able to function on a day-to-day basis."

Rocks, of Puyallup, Wash., said the missions help foster support for coalition forces in an area once considered firmly under insurgent control.

"Right now, (Operation Happy Feet is) immediate gratification," Rocks said. "But everything we do for them helps them and their families realize that the Iraqi government and coalition forces care about the Iraqi people."

In addition to the company of 'Can Do' infantrymen present, a squad of Iraqi Army soldiers helped provide security and translations during the visit.

The school is co-educational, meaning girls have class in the

morning and boys in the afternoon.

"We're trying to get the kids of Sadr City some new shoes, and hand out copies of Baghdad Kids," said Spc. Brandon Wise, 307th Psychological Operations Company, Team 1033, a Missouri Reserve unit. "It's a fun magazine for kids — it's got stuff about dinosaurs, outer space, the Olympics — things kids like. It's got some important safety and hygiene messages too, like 'remember to brush your teeth' and 'don't point toy guns at Soldiers.'"

Wise, of Greenville, Ill., and Staff Sgt. Travis C. Butler, also of the 307th, handed out bags of school supplies, coloring books and issues of Baghdad Kids.

"It's really important for us to make a good impression on these kids before they grow up," Butler, of St. Clair, Mo., said. "The kids are the future of Iraq, and fostering a better relationship now will make for better relationships later."

The morning's classes of girls lined up to get their feet measured, and receive the white tennis shoes.

The girls quietly giggled as Soldiers passed the shoes forward to Chaplain (Capt.) Steven Hommel, 3/15 chaplain, who handed them out. Several Soldiers remarked at how well-behaved the girls were.

"The American schoolkids back in the states don't realize how lucky they are, when you look at someplace like Iraq," 1st Sgt. Donald Rangel, first sergeant, B Co., said. "We passed out these shoes just so the kids here can get from home to school without hurting themselves."

"It makes me feel good to do this for the kids here," the San Antonio native continued. "I've got six kids of my own, three of them in elementary school."

The Soldiers distributed about half of the 500 pairs of shoes to the girls, and will give the rest to the school's boys later in the week.

"This is one of many missions we have," Terese said. "We come out here every day. We're also working right now to get a functional sewage system installed in the neighborhood, which will make for a much safer neighborhood for these kids to grow up in."



Soldiers from B Co., 3/15 Infantry, hand out hard candy to kids in Sadr City, Iraq, Feb. 28. Sadr City is in northeast Baghdad.



Chaplain (Capt.) Steven Hommel, 3/15 Inf. chaplain, hands a pair of sneakers and a coloring book to a student at Marakah al-Taf elementary school in Sadr City, Iraq. Soldiers distributed about 250 pairs of shoes at the school, in northeastern Baghdad.



At the Marakah al-Taf elementary school in Sadr City, 1st Sgt. Donald Rangel, B Co., 3/15 Inf., shows his Soldiers where to put bags.

Battlekings set up TCP in Baghdad

Story and Photos by
Spc. Ben Brody
2nd Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, set up traffic control points around the outskirts of Baghdad as part of an effort to stop the transit of illegal firearms and explosives Feb. 27.

The battery is split up into four teams that routinely conduct such missions, but the 27th was the first night that all four teams were out at once.

“Our primary mission tonight is to disrupt enemy activity and provide safer neighborhoods in the area,” said 1st Lt. Emory Hayes, A Btry. platoon leader. “This area is somewhat of a hotbed of enemy activity — it’s very important that we maintain a strong presence here.”

Each team traveled in humvees and Field Artillery Support Vehicles, which are large, tracked vehicles designed to follow Paladin howitzers into battle.

As the 1/9 vehicles blocked off one rural road, a line of cars slowed to a halt at the direction of troops on the ground.

One by one, Soldiers searched vehicles, and with the help of an interpreter, interviewed the drivers.

After about an hour, the Soldiers moved to a different location and set up another TCP. This one was much darker, on a desolate road and the troops turned all their lights off except for a Soldier holding a flashlight to signal approaching vehicles.

One vehicle was told to continue through the checkpoint, but stopped and told the interpreter he had information on insurgent activity in the area.

Soldiers took a statement from the man and sent him on his way.

“We search cars, houses, people — we’re looking at everything when we’re out on patrol,” said Spc. Jonathan Mardis, A Btry., cannon crewmember. “A lot of times people give us information that we follow up on.”

As the artillerymen perform what are usually thought of as infantry or military police tasks, Mardis, from Atlanta, Ga., said his battery has undergone a lot of different training to prepare them for Iraq.

Like most artillerymen in Iraq right now, Mardis said he misses his Paladin, but is quickly learning his new roles.

The sound of chirping frogs and dogs howling was broken by a speeding car racing toward the TCP.

Soldiers shouted, waved flashlights and finally fired a warning shot, at which point the driver slammed on his brakes and

stopped. Five somewhat inebriated men emerged from the sedan, and appeared relieved to be alive after nearly running through the TCP. Soldiers questioned the men, removed and dumped some open beers and told them to drive home carefully.

“It’s my main priority to keep my Soldiers safe, and communication is everything out here,” said Sgt. Anthony Brown, A Btry. gunner. “Keeping Soldiers safe means keeping them informed — if they’re not informed, they won’t know what’s going on or what to expect.”

Brown, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. and a veteran of the invasion of Iraq, said he thinks Soldiers have to be even more vigilant now than in 2003.

After another hour or so, the troops started their vehicles, and again moved to set up another checkpoint, where they intended to enforce the curfew in effect in the area.

Only one vehicle was found breaking curfew, and after searching it, Soldiers sent the individuals on their way home.

“The locals’ response to our presence varies a lot from place to place,” Hayes, of Ellijay, Ga., said. “The poorer areas are mainly Shia, who are generally favorable to us. The more well-to-do areas, the Sunni areas, we usually get a less friendly welcome.”



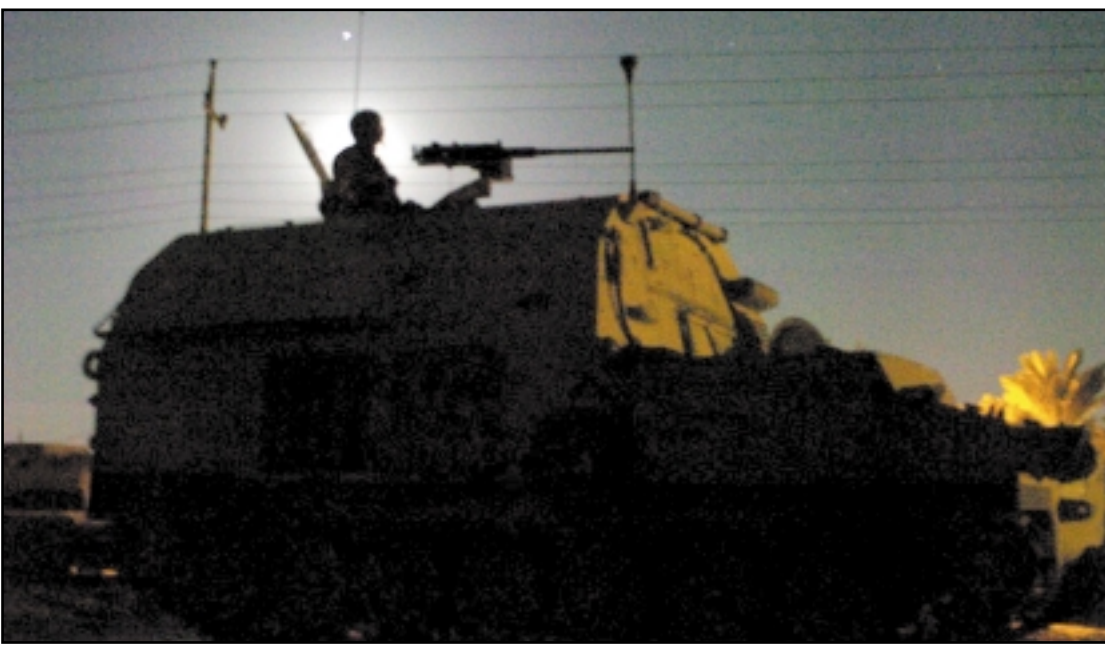
Sgt. Steve Devo, A Btry., 1/9 FA, gives instructions to his Soldiers from the gunner's hatch of a Field Artillery Support Vehicle. The battery set up traffic control points in Baghdad Feb. 27.



Spc. Joel De Leon, A Btry., 1/9 FA, attaches the barrel of a .50 caliber machine gun before leaving on a patrol from Camp Patriot, Iraq.



Spc. Jonathan Mardis, A Btry., 1/9 FA cannon crewmember, inspects a minivan at a traffic control point set up by his team in Baghdad Feb. 27. Mardis is from Atlanta.



Sgt. Steve Devo, A Btry., 1/9 FA, mans a .50 caliber machine gun atop a Field Artillery Support Vehicle at a traffic control point.



Soldiers from A Btry., 1/9 FA, and an Iraqi interpreter speak with a motorist they have stopped. The Soldiers man security check points throughout Baghdad.



Soldiers from A Btry., 1/9 FA, inspect documents and money found on a man they stopped during a routine security check.

Father pins Silver Star on son - ceremony held in Iraq

Story and Photo by
Sgt. John Queen
3rd Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD — Staff Sgt. William Thomas Payne of the 1st Cavalry Division received the Silver Star, the United States third highest award for heroism in combat, Feb. 27 during a brief ceremony held at the crossed sabers monument in central Baghdad.

Although Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, the division's commander, was on hand to present the award, Payne took the unique opportunity to have the medal pinned on him by his father, Carl Payne, a Department of the Army employee working in Iraq.

"I could never be more proud," said the elder Payne, a retired Army tanker.

"As a parent it's like a double edged sword though," he said, speaking of his sons' actions. "I'm glad he was recognized for the duty that he did, but it is tough to know that your son risked his life in a situation like that."

Payne, infantryman, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, is credited with rescuing a group of Soldiers from a disabled Bradley fighting vehicle while under fire last September. Payne is from Benford, Okla.

"Staff Sgt. Payne displayed gallantry and valor that was truly amazing," Chiarelli said. "He did it in one of the toughest neighborhoods in Baghdad — Sheik Maroof."

The neighborhood has many areas that have been dubbed with nicknames like

"Grenade Alley", and "Purple Heart Lane" by the Soldiers who regularly patrol it. The infamous Haifa Street runs along the northern border.

"I've read a lot of citations since I've been here," Chiarelli added, "but I have read none that talks of any greater act of heroism than what Staff Sgt. Payne did that day."

During the late morning hours of Sept. 12, 2004, Payne's battalion was wrapping up an operation on Haifa Street.

As Bradley fighting vehicles patrolled the streets, Soldiers on the ground set up defensive positions in order to pick up other Soldiers that had been manning observation posts in high-rise buildings throughout the night.

Payne and his dismounted squad were in their position along the side of the street when the unthinkable happened — a car laden with explosives sped onto the street and detonated into the rear of a Bradley.

"I looked back," Payne explained, "it was like; there is no way that this was happening."

A split second later the blasts powerful concussion hit his squad knocking one Soldier to the ground.

"When I heard the concussion I knew it was real and it was time to go," he said.

The force of the blast disabled the 33 ton Bradley bringing it to a halt. It's rear ramp was engulfed in flames and the upper cargo hatch was blown off.

Small arms fire began to

rain onto the street, so Payne had Sgt. Richard Frisbie shift the squad into a new position so they could provide cover fire while he and Spc. Chase Ash went to help the Soldiers in the Bradley.

"Luckily, I had someone there to help out," Payne said. "I had a Soldier to keep control of the squad and another to help me with the wounded."

Payne and Ash ran 50 meters to the burning vehicle while insurgents fired on them. At the Bradley, Payne climbed up on top and helped two of the crewman out of the turret.

He then turned his attention to the infantrymen still inside the crew compartment. One by one he pulled them up through the damaged cargo hatch.

"I lowered them down the side of the Bradley to Spc. Ash so he could get them to safety," Payne said. "There was a lot of gunfire going on."

Within seconds of retrieving the wounded Soldiers from the Bradley the vehicle's load of ammunition began to cook off from the heat and fire.

According to Payne the whole series of events lasted nearly five minutes.

"All the training just kicked in," Payne said about what happened. "It's hard to explain, I didn't really have time to think about it."

Once back in a safe position on the south side of the street, Payne's squad teamed together again to further protect the rescued Soldiers as



While Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli watches, Carl Payne pins the Silver Star medal on his son, Staff Sgt. William Thomas Payne. Payne was awarded the decoration for his heroic actions on Haifa Street last September.

the medic treated their injuries

"Some of the wounded were unable to get their equipment out of the Bradley," Payne explained. "We had one Soldier that didn't have his helmet and another was missing his weapon."

Payne's men began giving

them whatever piece of protective gear they could spare.

"They were giving up goggles and things like that," Payne added. "They were giving them anything they could to provide them better protection than what they had when they got out of the vehicle."

When it was safe enough,

Payne and his Soldiers put the wounded into another Bradley for evacuation to the combat support hospital.

"I owe everything to my squad," Payne said. "If my squad wasn't there I couldn't have completed that mission. My squad was there for me — that's what it comes down to."

Army’s training, career goals revolutionized

Distributed Learning System available on-line...

Shadi May
Army News Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians interested in taking courses to fulfill their training requirements or enhance their careers can do so through Army’s Distributed Learning System.

The DLS is an Army initiative funded fully by the Army to assist Soldiers and civilians to receive quality training in state-of-the-art facilities and to improve training efficiency and flexibility.

“Quality training is at the core of the Army’s mission, and it’s absolutely vital to readiness,” Col. Sharon Holmes, DLS project manager, said.

While the Army’s goal is to provide the best and most up-to-date training to Soldiers, it is not always an easy task because of Soldiers’ deployments, reassignments and family commitments. Whether it is military occupational skills training, annual common tasks training or career development courses, DLS affords Soldiers a chance to take courses from home or office.

“The thing I like about it is that you can go at your own pace,” said Spc. Chris Fitzgerald, a D Company, 187th Medical Battalion preventive medical specialist. “It’s one on one between you and the computer, and you don’t have to worry about falling behind like you would when an instructor goes over the material. You can go back and redo your lesson.”

DLS is also available to benefit civilian employees with their career enhancement goals. In fact, like Soldiers, civilians are actively taking

advantage of courses offered through the DLS system.

“It’s a method of delivering training which helps you avoid TDY costs and time out of the office,” said David Glass, Installation Labor Relations officer at Fort Sam Houston Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, while taking a ‘Dealing with Medical Issues in the Work Place’ video tele-training course.

VTT is among popular methods by which DLS accommodates its customers. Through this method, training can be accomplished where the instructor and student interact while linked via video conferencing, tele-conferencing or the internet.

DLS contributes to the Army’s ever changing environment. The training offered through this method can be available when the Soldiers are available and when the training is needed. Web-based training is available at times that are convenient for the student. VTT classes can also be taught in a live, interactive setting whether it’s 3 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston, 7 a.m. in Bosnia or 11 a.m. in Korea.

The DLS has begun to “field” an Army learning management system whereby Soldiers and civilians can register for courses through the Army Knowledge Online portal. The system will support management and administration of training products and allow supervisors and commanders access to personnel training records to see what type of training individuals had and to determine what type of training they need.

“Our challenge is to market the program and ensure all people entitled to the benefits use it, said Velma Burrs, chief, Multimedia Training



Shadi May

Carmen Lopez-Dunn, an instructional system specialist, assists a student from 187th Medical Battalion, during validation of an integrated pest management computer-based course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Branch, Department of Academic Support and Quality Assurance for Army Medical Department Center and School. “Our greatest service to AMEDDC&S is that we deliver mission essential training to personnel in worldwide locations.”

DLS consists of five components to include digital training facilities, the Army learning management system, Army e-learning, an enterprise management center and the development of the deployed digital training campus.

The Army has fielded the program worldwide on both active and Reserve installations at a total of 249 sites to include continental U.S. installations and those military installations located in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Korea, Japan and Okinawa.

Another attractive factor of DLS for commanders and supervisors is the cost savings to the government. While it could cost an average of

\$1,200 to send someone to a training conference, the DLS opportunities save units thousands of dollars in travel costs while providing immediate results.

“We have onboard maintenance,” said Gilbert Gutierrez, DLS facility manager at AMEDDC&S. “We are here 24/7 to accommodate the Army’s training mission. We encourage people to contact us to use the facility more.”

The Army’s goal is to have a DLS facility within a 50-mile radius of a Soldier’s home base. The intent of the program is to reach Soldiers throughout the world any time.

“The program’s quality promotes itself,” said Neta Lesjak, AMEDDC&S chief of Department of Academic Support and Quality Assurance.

To learn more about the DLS and courses offered, Soldiers and civilians can visit the Web site at www.dls.army.mil.

\$14M allocated for barracks improvement

Sgt. James Strine
Frontline Staff

Army’s Installation Management Agency recently allocated 14 million dollars for Fort Stewart to upgrade Soldiers’ heating and air conditioning services on post. In turn, Fort Stewart chose the Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage the contract.

On Feb. 25, the corps of engineers awarded the money to local North Central Mechanical Contractors. Work should begin in the next several weeks, said Directorate of Public Works Director Michael Biering.

According to Biering, the repairs will greatly improve Soldiers’ quality of life by providing extensive repairs to the heating and air conditioning systems in the barracks.

“By the time the Soldiers get back, we should be substantially complete,” he said.

This is only phase one of multi-year upgrades scheduled to improve the air conditioning and heating throughout post.

The next phase includes plans to upgrade post’s central energy plant.

Checkout The Frontline for updates on the projects.

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Keeping supply routes safe ...

Estonian Soldiers, armor unit team

Sgt. David Foley
Army News Service

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — One small European country is playing a major role in keeping supply convoys safe while moving through Iraq.

Each day, hundreds of trucks travel the streets of Iraq carrying cargo bound for military installations and forward operating posts.

One of the ways the Army is minimizing the risk involved in delivering supplies to Soldiers in Iraq is through a joint operation that also includes Soldiers from 10th Mountain

Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., and a platoon of Estonian infantrymen.

The two units work together keeping each other safe while patrolling Gazalia Village, a 15-kilometer section of road in the heart of Western Baghdad that is known to be a "hot spot" for improvised explosive devices.

The American tank company, part of Task Force 141, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mtn. Div., doesn't have any light infantry Soldiers, so it relies on the Estonians to provide security for tanks, and in turn they provide security for the Estonians.

"It's not too easy to cordon and search with a bunch of tanks," Capt. Jade Hinman, commander, Co. C, said. "To have a group of Estonians who are good at what they do is like having a plate of brownies to myself."

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with coalition Soldiers," he said. "It is great to have another country who works so well with us."

Hinman said he is sometimes the butt of jokes because many American Soldiers have never heard of Estonia and say it is a mythical country, but the Estonian soldiers are some of the best he's seen.

"I'd stack them up with any infantry platoon I've ever seen," he said. "I'm not getting a second-rate team; I'm getting first-rate soldiers."

Sgt. Michael Fragassi, Co. C, works directly with the Estonian soldiers on the ground, and said he was impressed to see their capabilities.

"I expected them to show up with outdated Russian surplus equipment, but they are very well equipped," he said. "They have the same night vision as us, they carry Israeli manufactured Galil's, which are basically the best parts of an AK-47 and an M16 put together, and they are very well-trained."

"They are awesome," he said. "Outstanding soldiers. I'd put them on par with our rangers as far as their training and weapons are concerned."

Estonian Army Capt. Nee-me Brus, a media relations officer with Multi-National Corps - Iraq, said Estonia knows the value of freedom. He also recognized the need to fight terrorism here, before the

fight ends up in their own backyard.

There are currently 35 Estonian soldiers in Iraq, and about 140 soldiers have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brus said that may seem like a small number, but in a country smaller than New Hampshire and Vermont combined, with a population of less than 1.5 million people, they have made a major contribution.

Estonia's participation in OIF has not come without sacrifice. Two Estonian soldiers have died, and 10 others have been wounded in action.

Brus said the Estonians are aware of the cost of freedom, after being under communist rule for 50 years under Soviet Union control, and they believe in the cause.

Estonia gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

While many of the countries who are part of the Coalition offer support strictly through logistics or engineering, Estonian soldiers are on the ground patrolling neighborhoods and searching for weapons and anti-Iraqi forces' hideouts.

"We are a small but effective part of the (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)," Brus said.

The Estonian parliament is preparing to vote on its continuing involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom in March, and the outcome will be known shortly thereafter.

"The public opinion in Estonia about our participation here is almost 50-50," Brus said.

"But the Estonian soldiers hope the parliament will extend the Estonian mission in OIF," he said.

Civ. Aff. Soldiers assess village

Staff Sgt. Thom Mills
1st Bde. PAO

AL BUTOMA, Iraq — Flocks of children pour from the houses and other buildings of the village of Al Butoma, Iraq. They are flocking to Company B, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, humvees that are driving into the village square. As soon as the humvees stop, the children gather around a trailer where Soldiers begin passing out pens, pencils and socks.

This is the image that most people see when they think of civil affairs. But while the children scramble for the goods, Maj. Joshua Stevens, Company B's commander, is speaking to a local town elder. He's already hard at work with what the civil affairs community calls the collection and analysis of atmospherics.

This assessment is an overall look at what a community is about, said Stevens, a native of Raleigh, N.C.

"The assessment focuses on the subtle nuances of working with different people in terms of identifying tribal demographics and makeup within a given village," Stevens said. This includes identifying the tribal leaders, sheiks and municipal leaders.

The work isn't finished when those people are identified. Sometimes the hardest part is assessing how the people of the village will react to Coalition Forces.

Each time the team enters a village, it is hard for them to know what to expect, said Spc. Matthew Saarima, civil affairs specialist and native of Geneva, Ill. "The same village can respond differently. Each village has different pressures on it, different chemistry."

On top of learning who the leaders are in a village and what those different pressures are, civil affairs Soldiers also have to assess how they can help that village get back on its feet, Stevens said.

"You'll look at the other issues that affect the people in the village -- water, power grid setups, schools, governance buildings, things of that nature," Stevens said.

Assessments like these can include taking panoramic photos of terrain and photos of villagers. To civil affairs, it's all about full-spectrum operations.

"We want to leave a village with a total picture of the village," Stevens said. This includes its makeup, whether it's pro or anti-Coalition, along with doing basic terrain analysis.

It takes a special kind of Soldier to accomplish these missions and to fully understand a village's needs. It takes experience in all aspects of what people need to survive and thrive.

"A majority of civil affairs Soldiers are reservists," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Priebe, unit operations officer, and native of Brainerd, Minn. "That makes them especially effective because we have Soldiers who are cops, electrical engineers, and medics in their civilian lives. We have a lot of experience to draw from."

What appears on the surface to be a simple mission of handing out goodies to children is actually the beginning of something much larger. "It was just another opportunity to move the Iraqi population toward self-sufficiency," Stevens said.



Col. Billy Buckner

Estonian Staff Sgt. Sigmar Zelinski stands guard over an empty lot across from a fruit stand in Western Baghdad while his teammates pass by. The platoon of Estonian Soldiers is working with Soldiers from 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., to secure a 15 kilometer section of road in Western Baghdad.



Staff Sgt. Chris Farley

Army Reserve Chief, Lt. Gen. James Helmly, congratulates Pfc. Jeremy Church, 724th Transportation Company, after awarding him a Silver Star for valor in Iraq Apr. 9 when his convoy was ambushed.

724th Reserve Soldier receives Silver Star for actions in Iraq

Army News Service

FORT McCOY, Wis. — As the 724th Transportation Company was welcomed home from Iraq Feb. 25, the first Army Reserve Soldier in the Global War on Terrorism received a Silver Star.

Pfc. Jeremy Church, 724th TC was pinned during a homecoming ceremony at Fort McCoy, Wis., with a Silver Star, the Army's third-highest medal for valor.

Church earned the medal when his convoy was attacked April 9 by more than 150 insurgents in an ambush during which Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin was captured.

Church was the convoy commander's driver in the lead vehicle. The convoy was taking fuel

to Baghdad International Airport when the Madr Militia struck. Church's actions are attributed with saving the lives of at least five Soldiers and four civilians.

Church drove aggressively through the "kill zone" to dodge explosions, obstacles and small arms fire, according to his citation. When the convoy commander was shot, Church grabbed his first aid pouch, ripped it open, and instructed the platoon leader to apply a bandage. Church fired his M-16 at the enemy as he continued to drive around barriers.

When an improvised explosive device blew out a tire, Church continued driving for four miles on only three tires, all the while firing his M-16 out the window with his left hand. He finally led the convoy into a security perimeter established by a

cavalry company from 2/12 Cav. He then carried his platoon leader out of the vehicle to a casualty collection point for treatment.

Then Church rallied the troopers to launch an immediate recovery mission and escorted them back into the kill zone.

"Pfc. Church identified the assistant commander's vehicle amidst heavy black smoke and flaming wreckage of burning fuel tankers to find two more wounded Soldiers and four civilian truck drivers," his citation reads, adding that after a hasty triage and treating a sucking chest wound, he "carried the Soldier over to one of the recovery vehicles while exposing himself to continuous enemy fire from both sides of the road."

When all the wounded were

loaded in the truck, there was no room and Church volunteered to remain behind.

He climbed into a disabled Humvee for cover, according to his citation, and continued firing at and killing insurgents until the recovery team returned.

He then loaded up several more wounded before sweeping the area for sensitive items and evacuating.

Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly presented Church with the Silver Star. Helmly also spoke with the parents of Maupin, who was captured in the ambush.

Even though Maupin's Army Reserve unit has returned to its home station of Bartonville, Ill., Army officials said other Soldiers in Iraq will never stop the search for Maupin.

Stryker ICV helps recruiters at auto show

Kathryn Pardo
Army News Service

CHICAGO, Ill. — Who would have guessed that a Stryker ICV Command Vehicle could not only protect Soldiers fighting in the Global War on Terror, but that it could also help attract a nearly record number of leads for Chicago recruiters?

That is exactly what happened when a Stryker was put on display at the Chicago Auto Show, held in the McCormick Center from Feb. 11-20. The largest auto show in North America, the 2005 exhibition was one of the five most successful in its 97-year history.

Visitors to the Army booth saw a military presence at the show for the first time in 30 years.

The Stryker was on display, along with the Chicago Recruiting Battalion's Multiple Exhibit Vehicle and an adjacent display by

Q101, "Chicago's Alternative" FM radio station.

They also filled out 8,231 lead cards, according to the Chicago Recruiting Battalion. Of those cards, 2,613 were from target age prospects.

And of the 2,613 lead cards from the target age group, 1,185 prospective recruits requested additional information or a phone call from a recruiter. That is an average of 112 interested potential Soldiers filling out a lead card every day during the course of the ten-day show.

"These were individuals who not only stopped by the booth, but who filled out a lead card and may have asked for additional information," said Bill Kelo, Director of Public Affairs for the Chicago Rec. Bn. "We had about four times as many people simply stop by the booth."

To put these numbers into perspective, visitors to Chicago's three-day Air and

Water Show last August filled out 155 lead cards. This was another "mega-event" by Chicago Recruiting's estimation.

"This was an excellent event, bigger than anything I've seen thus far," said Sgt. Audra Jones, a recruiter who has been in Chicago since December of 2004.

After only one day at the show, Jones has one "very solid" lead and a few potential recruits. "This was pretty good," she said with a smile. It is not entirely clear why the Auto Show was such a successful event for recruiters, but Jones and one of her fellow Soldiers have some observations on the topic.

"The Auto Show made us (recruiters) more approachable, people were less intimidated to talk with us," observed Jones.

"Visitors were very open to our set-up," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Edwards, who has been recruiting in Chicago for three years.

"The Army took part in the Auto Show

with the Stryker and the rest of the display," he continued. "At other types of events, like concerts, people are focused on something else and the Army is a bystander. This display drew people to us — people wanted to come and see the Army display."

Edwards would like to recruit at the Auto Show next year as well, and it certainly looks like he will have the opportunity to do so if he remains stationed in Chicago.

"We hope to make this an annual event... and we have every indication to believe that the Army will be invited back," said Kelo.

"I couldn't be prouder that the Army is represented at the Chicago Auto Show," said Paul Brian, the Director of Communications for the Chicago Automobile Trade Association, the show's producing organization.

In sync with Kelo's aspirations, Brian looks forward to inviting the Army to future shows and to expanding the Army's exhibit to include a larger presence. "Everyone



Stan Cordell

A visitor to the Chicago Auto Show enjoys the Stryker ICV Command Vehicle that was on display. The Stryker's presence set a record for recruiters attracting Army recruits.

loves the Stryker," he said. "It's marvelous!"

In terms of future Army support, Master Sgt. Gerrold Johnson of US Army Public Affairs — Midwest agrees that the event should grow in future years.

System advances signal abilities, reduces manning

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st Bde. Public Affairs

The Army has revolutionized the efficiency of their communication abilities with a new system while cutting down on the amount of Soldiers needed. The 3rd Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division is the first to employ the joint network node communication system in a combat zone.

The JNN system can perform communication operations at a much greater pace than the former system used by Army communications specialists. It does this through the use of commercial satellite systems.

“The JNN is a commercial network that we use for tactical purposes,” said Spc. Danny Ferguson, a JNN systems operator with 1/3 BTB. “We use commercial satellites to bring in and send out communications to all brigade elements.”

Soldiers work less and can produce more with the JNN. This can be done through the amount of data the Soldiers who work with the JNN can transmit and receive.

“The biggest benefit is the high increase of data we can receive and transmit to and from multiple subscribers,” Ferguson said. “The old (mobile subscriber equipment) could only pull in one megabyte of bandwidth.

A bandwidth is power behind the push of a signal to a specific source. The new JNN system has the capability of eight megabytes. That’s obviously much more power.”

The JNN is a brand new system but still has the ability to communicate with the old MSE system until everyone gets one, Ferguson said.

The JNN not only enhances the quality and quantity of 1st BCT’s communication abilities, it also can be maintained with a fraction of the manpower.

“You get more services with less equipment to maintain,” Capt. Kathleen Cage, commander, A Company, 1/3 BTB, said. “The holistic benefits are that it takes much fewer Soldiers to operate the new system than the old node center we had before.”

The old node center was operated by more than 20 Soldiers, Cage said.

“If you look at the bigger picture, the company and the brigade have fewer Soldiers to support logistically with the use of the JNN system,” Cage said. “The company as a whole is streamlined by using the JNN instead of the node center.”

Cage said 1/3 BTB is the first to use the JNN in combat.

“This is the first JNN in the theater of operations in a combat zone,” Cage said. “I think it is very cool for our Soldiers to be able to say that.”

Since 1/3 BTB is the first unit to use the JNN in theater, there were a lot of kinks to work out before the unit was ready to take the system with them to Iraq. With the help of civilians who were familiar with JNN, 1/3 BTB became proficient and confident in their ability to use the system.

“It took a lot of civilian help back in garrison to get our Soldiers up to speed on the JNN,” Cage said. “We got most of the bugs worked out, and we are pulling in a string signal now. It will just take time to get used to operating it.”

One of the greatest benefits of the JNN is that it is less terrain dependent.

“Leaders who want to have the ability to



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Spc. Danny Ferguson, a JNN systems operator with 1/3 BTB, does a preventive maintenance check on the system at FOB Dagger near Tikrit, Iraq.

place their units in certain positions won’t have to worry about getting to a certain spot on the terrain to communicate with their command elements,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Rivera, 1st BCT network technician.

“The reason this is possible is because communications are satellite based instead of depending on line of sight communication,” Rivera said.

“The way things worked before JNN, each unit out in the field was locked into a certain block of satellite capacity, whether or not they were using it,” said Brian Hupp, a JNN field support representative.

“With the new system, all the units are locked into the same hub. This sends all signals back to a central location, giving them communications abilities on demand,” he said.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 20-year-old male.
 - **Charge:** Fraudulent use of identification.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
-
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Drunken driving.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Family member, 20-year-old male
 - **Charge:** Excessive speed 69/45.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Family member, 32-year-old female.
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, defective equipment.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 23-year-old female, Div. Sup. Bde.
 - **Charge:** Improper backing.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old female, Avn. Bde.
 - **Charges:** Fail to obey other order, operating vehicle without valid tag.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
-
- **Subject:** Civilian, 34-year-old male.
 - **Charge:** Improper lane change, suspended license.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
-
- **Subject:** Civilian, 20-year-old female.
 - **Charges:** Speeding, no insurance.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
-
- **Subject:** Civilian, 29-year-old male.
 - **Charges:** Larceny of government funds, wrongful disposition of government property, conspiracy to commit other fraud offenses, larceny of government property.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
-
- **Subject:** Private, 25-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old male.
 - **Charges:** Theft of public property, accessory to theft of public property.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful appropriation of government vehicle, driving on a suspended license.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.



- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 39-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 42/30.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 34-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Simple battery.
 - **Location:** Hinesville.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charge:** Exposure of sexual organ.
 - **Location:** Tampa, Fla.
-
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate unit.

- **Charge:** Driving under the influence.
 - **Location:** Allenhurst.
-
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 25-year-old male, Fires Bde.
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Family member, 34-year-old male.
 - **Charge:** Driving while license revoked.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Fleeing the scene of a traffic accident, failed to yield to vehicle entering roadway.
 - **Location:** Savannah.
-
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine
 - **Location:** Hunter
-
- **Subject:** Family member, 20-year-old female.
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 71/55, driving without a license
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 31-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful use or possession of a false military identification, underage drinking.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 34-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charge:** Failure to obey lawful order or regulation.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Family member, 19-year-old female.
 - **Charge:** Shoplifting.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Private, 18-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charge:** Simple battery.
 - **Location:** St. Petersburg, Fla.
-
- **Subject:** Civilian, 54-year-old male.
 - **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way, no proof of insurance.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Battery.
 - **Location:** Allenhurst.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 34-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 25-year-old male, Fires Bde.
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 43/30.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Family member, 20-year-old female.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 36-year-old male, 4th Bde.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Bowling and Golf
Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members.
No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month.
Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.

Red Cross CPR Instructors
If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter — Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.

You can call 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Feet for more information.

Track and Field/Soccer
Registration is open and FREE to all current CYS members living on or off post.
All children must have a current physical on file at time of registration.
For more information, call 767-2312/4371.

Library
Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Cooking Class
Cooking Class — at Club Stewart from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost is \$5. Advance signups required by today.
For more information call 368-2212.
Easter Holiday Brunch
Club Stewart offers a Sunday brunch every week. The public is always welcome. On Easter Sunday, March 27, there will be three seatings starting at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m.
The price for adults is \$11.95 (\$10.95 with church bulletin); children ages 9 to 11, half prices; and children under 9 are free.
For more information or to make reservations, call 368-2122

Road Closure
The northern boundary of Hwy. 119 to the intersection of Hwy. 44 West will be closed March 22 and 23 for training purposes.
Closure times are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
For more information call 767-4895.

Warrant Officer Statement
The United States Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airman to fill its Warrant Officer ranks. Positions are open in all 41 active duty warrant officer specialties, and the following are experiencing critical shortages: Military Intelligence, Special Forces, Food Service, Criminal Investigation and Airdrop Systems Technicians. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply.
For more information visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant.

Hunter

Tax Center
Tax Center is now open to assist military ID card holders prepare their tax returns.
The center can file your return electronically, and arrange direct deposit of refunds.
Preparers can assist while you wait, or drop-off your return, and pick it up when it is ready to file.
The tax center is at the legal center, located in Bldg 1211, directly across from the Garrison Headquarters, from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m., weekdays.
For more information, call 303-3675/3697.

Fundraiser
The AER Fundraising Campaign runs March 1 through Apr. 15.
Your contributions help Soldiers and their families in financial need.
See your unit rep to fill out a contribution slip or call AER Officer Doris Clark at 352-5301.

Recycling Hours
New hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4 pm. The center has an after hour drop-off, located outside of the fenced area. Use weekends or after 4 p.m. to deposit pre-sorted recyclables.
Call 240-0322 for more information.

DECA Scholarship
Commissary scholarship applications are due Monday and must be turned in at the commissary.
Children of active, reserve, retired or deceased service members can compete for merit-based awards up to \$1,500.
Dependents age 21 (or 23, if a full-time student) who will be attending college in 2005-06 are eligible.

You can find more information, at Web site www.militaryscholar.org.

Leadership Skills Enhancement
LSEP leadership and software courses with Central Texas College are free to service members.
Free to adult family members and DOD civilians on space-available basis.
Classes meet for about three hours daily and are worth college credit.
Upcoming courses: Effective Writing classes until Mar. 18; Personal Finance until Mar. 11.
See an education counselor to register, or call 352-6130 for more information

Flu Shot Program Expanded
Tuttle Army Health Clinic has a flu shot clinic each Thursday, from 1 - 3 p.m. Flu vaccine is available to all DOD civilians, service members, military retirees, and dependents.
For more information, call Preventive Medicine at 370-5071/5101.

T-Ball and Baseball Sign-ups
Pick up a registration packet for Hunter youth baseball, T-ball, at Bldg. 1286, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays. Participation is free.
Children must have CYS registration and sports physical completed at the time of registration.
Leagues are: T-Ball for ages 5-6, Coach Pitch for ages 7-8, Pitch Machine for ages 9-10, Fast Pitch for ages 11-12, and Fast Pitch Little League for ages 13 and 14.
For more information, call Geno Smalls, sports and fitness manager, at 352-5851.

Winn /Tuttle

Newborn TRICARE Prime
Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime.
If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard. You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE.
For more information about DEERS enrollment, contact the Fort Stewart ID Card Section at 767-4909 and the Hunter ID Card Section at 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.

Ready to Quit Class
If you're interested in quitting tobacco use, walk-in to a one hour Ready to Quit class. You can register for the 4-week Tobacco Use Cessation program during this class or pick-up self-help materials to quit on your own.
Ready to Quit is a pre-requisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation program. The next class at Winn is 11 a.m. Mar. 23. The next Tuttle class is 11 a.m. Mar. 23.
For more information, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

EDIS
Families with children up to 3 years old who are at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening.
Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6370.

Walk to Winn Program
This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration has begun and spaces are limited.
For more information, call 370-5071 to reserve your place.

New Tuttle Pharmacy Hours
The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Wednesday and Friday. It is open 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 2 - 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.

Strategy for Staying Healthy
Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle.

The next class at Winn is 2 - 3 p.m., Thursday. Tuttle's next class is 10 - 11 a.m. Mar. 24.
To register, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

New Tuttle Pharmacy Hours
The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday. It is open 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.

Nutrition Display/Screening at PX
In observance of national nutrition month, a nutrition display and health screening will be available at the Hunter PX 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mar. 24.

Internal Medicine, Dermatology
The Internal Medicine and Dermatology clinics will be closed March 17. For an emergency, please go to the nearest emergency room.

Travel card info lost, no evidence of fraud or misuse

Jim Garamone
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said today.
The General Services Administration and Bank of America notified DoD that GSA "SmartPay" travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts and there has been no evidence of fraud or misuse of the accounts.
Bank of America is sending letters to affected employees.
"Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual card holders has been lost, and it is possible that information has been compromised, though we don't believe

that is the case," said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer.
The U.S. Secret Service is conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.
Officials said that although there has been no evidence of criminal activity, release of details on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.
"Indications right now are that it is an accidental event," McKay said. "The bank has been monitoring the accounts involved from the onset, and to date there has been no indication of fraudulent activity."
The information is personal cardholder information — names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers — on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late December. GSA notified DoD on Jan. 19. McKay said the delay was necessary to protect the integrity of the investigation.
"The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the

situation," McKay said. "They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose. If (cardholders) have any questions, they can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them."
McKay added that consumers should always keep an eye on any credit accounts they have. "It's always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly statements (and) dispute any charges they may question, and also it's important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report," she said.
Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is (800) 493-8444. Cardholders who notice irregularities in their accounts should call the Bank of America at the 800 number printed on the back of their cards, McKay said. "If you are an affected, you may contact Bank of America for information on obtaining a free credit report," she added.



A CID special agent collects information during an investigation. Agents are trained not to form conclusions in advance when conducting investigations.

CID issues ‘all points bulletin’ wanted — motivated Soldiers

Story and Photos by
Kenneth A. Miller
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command has an ongoing all-points bulletin out for qualified Soldiers who want to become highly trained special agents.

During peacetime and war, CID agents investigate all felony crimes in which the Army has an interest, provide protective services for key Department of Defense and Army leadership, and work closely with other Federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies to solve crime and combat terrorism.

Agents receive training at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and advanced training in a wide range of specialized investigative disciplines.

Some specialties include polygraphs, counter-narcotics, economic-crime investigations, computer crime and many other specialties in the criminal investigate

field. With more than 200 offices worldwide, CID even has an airborne CID detachment at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Some investigators also have the opportunity to receive advance law enforcement training at the FBI National Academy, the Canadian Police College, and George Washington University where they can earn a master's degree in Forensic Science.

“We continue to look for qualified prospects to join the ranks of CID and receive the necessary training to become one of the DoD's premier law enforcement special agents,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Misianowycz, Headquarters, CIDC. “It's an outstanding opportunity for Soldiers looking for a career in law enforcement.”

CID agents are trained not to form conclusions in advance. They investigate the circumstances and facts surrounding each case to determine what findings the evidence supports in a thorough and professional manner with sensitivity toward the needs of victims and witnesses.

“Investigative procedures, resources and training constantly undergo evaluation to ensure high quality and professional casework from CID special agents,”



CID Special Agents support commanders by conducting criminal investigations of serious, sensitive or special interest matters, within their area of operations. As the premier investigative agency for the Army, CID supports the Army in peacetime and in war with investigations that include general crimes against person or property, economic crime and counter-drug operations.

said Master Sgt. Cynthia Fischer, deputy chief of staff for support, SGM. “Although many CID agents already have some type of military or civilian police background, it is not a requirement to qualify and be accepted into the special agent training program.”

CID offers a local six-month internship program for Soldiers who lack the law-enforcement experience, said Marianne Godin, chief of CID's Accreditation Division. Major installations such as Forts Bragg, Benning, Hood, and Lewis each offer rewarding CID intern opportunities for dynamic Soldiers.

“Enrollment in the initial internship programs will help develop the recruit's potential to complete the rigorous 15-week Apprentice Special Agent Course at the U.S. Army Military Police School,” Godin said. “After these classroom studies, Soldiers spend the first year as probationary agents before becoming fully accredited.”

Godin said civilian special agents are classified as criminal investigators under the Office of Personnel Management guidelines and applicants must meet specific criteria as established by the Office of Personnel Management in the Handbook for General Schedule Positions.

For a Soldier to apply and qualify as a CID Special Agent, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old, an E-5 or below with at least two years of service and not more than 10 years.

Also, he must have a general technical score of at least 110, no court martial convictions, possess 60 semester hours of college credit, a physical profile of 111221 or higher with normal color vision, 36 months obligated service upon completion of the Apprentice Special Agent Course, and be able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret clearance.

CID is currently accepting applications for Soldiers at the E-6 level who are fully qualified and serving in the Military Occupational Skill 31B (Military Police) or 31E (Internment/Resettlement Specialist).

“All applicants should possess excellent communication skills and be able to interact effectively with people from varied backgrounds, regardless of background,” Godin said.

Soldiers interested in becoming CID Special Agents are encouraged to contact their closest CID office or visit CID's Web site for more information at www.cid.army.mil.

Improvised explosive devices class helps improve safety

Sgt. Michael J. Carden
Army News Service

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — A special Army unit in Iraq now has the mission to teach Soldiers about improvised explosive devices.

Until recently, there was no unit or section committed solely to learning and teaching Soldiers about IEDs, officials said. A unit's knowledge and steps in reacting to IEDs were only based on past experiences in their area.

Now, because of research, data and information gathered from throughout the country, Multi-National Corps - Iraq's Electronic Warfare Coordination Cell is able to teach these findings to Soldiers, to give them a better understanding of the IED threat. The Soldiers learn recognition, characteristics and placement, and how to use counter-IED systems, said Staff Sgt. Bruce Boardman, tactics, techniques and procedures noncommissioned officer, EWCC, MNC-I.

"We'll give a class to just one person if that's what it takes to save

a Soldier's life," Boardman said. Boardman and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Baskervill, another Soldier in the cell, traveled to Camp Taji on Mar. 2 to give the Soldiers of the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, an IED awareness and counter IED systems class.

"IEDs are obviously a big threat. They account for a lot of the casualties in Iraq," said. Capt. Ken Lizotte, operations officer-in-charge, 603rd ASB, 3rd ID. "I like the fact that we have two subject matter experts here who understand what IEDs are all about and who can emphasize the importance of awareness." During the two hour class, Baskervill and Boardman spoke about the general characteristics of IEDS, and described several different types.

The primary types of IED encountered by troops in Iraq are command-wire, remote, and vehicle born IEDs, or VBIEDs. Command-wire IEDs have a detonation switch, such as a garage door opener or washing machine timer, at one end of the wire and the explosives at the other end. Remote detonated IEDs

are ignited by a transmitter, such as a cordless phone or hand-held radio. VBIEDs are vehicles turned bomb. They may have an extra antenna and can be detonated by using either the command-wire or remote detonation methods, according to Baskervill.

Baskervill and Boardman also talked about how and where insurgents may place an IED.

"(Insurgents) will put IEDs almost anywhere," Boardman said. "Placed on power poles or guard rails, buried in the median or low shoulder of the road, or hidden in barrels, tires and trash are all possibilities. A lot of times, they will make sure there is a wall or canal between them and the IED. That way they think they have a better chance to escape or go unnoticed."

"The enemy is very smart," Boardman said. "They're not just farmers with pitchforks."

"(Insurgents) shouldn't be underestimated," Baskervill added. "Many of them have engineering and electronic backgrounds. They're building (IEDs) from scratch."

Along with teaching the awareness class, Boardman also joins sev-



Sgt. Michael J. Carden

Staff Sgt. Bruce Boardman, improvised explosive device tactics, techniques and procedures noncommissioned officer, electronic warfare coordination cell, Multi-National Corp-Iraq, teaches Soldiers from the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Hunter Army Airfield, Fort Stewart, Ga., operating procedures of a counter-IED device.

eral different convoys and dismounted patrols each week to assess how Soldiers react to IED attacks or IEDs that have been planted but not detonated, he said.

He stressed to the class that Soldiers should stay focused on their mission, and pay attention to the surrounding environment, when they are in convoy or on patrol. "The local people know if there's something going on," Boardman said. "After you've patrolled the same areas a few times, you begin to make mental notes about the

amount of locals or traffic out and about. If, on a certain day, there's no traffic or no people walking the streets, that could be a tell-tale sign of an IED or a planned attack. You have to look for things out of the ordinary like that."

Baskervill and Boardman also talked about the importance of properly operating and executing tactics, techniques and procedures when using their unit's counter-IED system during a convoy.

"Before the counter-IED systems were put out, the kill ratio of a det-

onated IED was 70 percent," Boardman said. "Now that we have the systems, the kill ratio of a detonated IED is 30 percent. That's why it's so important for units to be aware of our class and the EWCC."

"Because of this class, I'm more knowledgeable and I'll be more observant," said Staff Sgt. Richard Samuels, motor pool, NCOIC, 603rd ASB, 3rd ID.

"I learned a lot about how to react to and identify IEDs, which will better my chances of survival during convoys," he said.



Members of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry check the passenger of a civilian vehicle for weapons and other contraband.

Security ————— **from Page 1A**
what’s in the vehicle. In this case, not only were three IEDs found, but also an AK-47 automatic rifle, for which the van’s driver claimed to have a permit.

This time everybody did their jobs, it all went right. But, Taylor reminded the Soldiers, it doesn’t always happen that way.

“Observation is everything, any mistake by the security team can, and will, lead to disaster,” he added. “That’s why they need to make the mistakes here, not there where those who don’t pay attention, and others, will suffer for it.”

As much as the training is to teach Soldiers how to handle vehicles entering the place where they live and work, it’s also to educate them about handling the people they encounter. The slightest insult, even if unintentional, Taylor said, will find those who have been insulted coming back and seeking revenge.

That, he said, can be avoided by treating people with courtesy. “A Soldier needs to be firm in his manner,” Taylor said, “but unless the person being searched or interviewed has given you a reason to suspect he’s there to hurt you, your fellow Soldiers or innocent civilians, he needs to be treated with respect.”

Guarding ones house, keeping its occupants safe is never a simple task, especially in war, but it must be done and done right, Resha and Taylor agreed. But it can be done and that’s why the Soldiers of the 48th Brigade Combat Team are learning to do it, here at Fort Stewart, before they get in country. That way there’s little chance of mistakes being made here will be made there, Resha said.

4th Bde. — from Page 1A
provides a supporting role.

“This will ensure that no matter where you are in the country the Iraqi populous know that it is the Iraqis not the Americans doing the yeoman’s work, day to day to make this country safe,” Coffman said.

The 4th Brigade has a very large area of operations. They have replaced two brigades, the 5th BCT and the 3rd BCT. The brigade will be responsible for the area south of the International Zone from the Tigris River to Baghdad International Airport to include the International Zone, the seat of government power, Coffman said.

There are two reasons 4th Bde will be able to maintain responsibility over such a large area.

“The first reason we can take over for two BCTs is the two brigades have done such a good job with the Iraqi security forces,” Coffman said. “They have really laid the groundwork for this with their work with the Iraqi security forces. This allows us to have fewer Soldiers on the ground.

“The other reason is due to the reorganization and the

capabilities of the brigade allow us to operate over a larger battle space and that’s mainly because we have increased the capabilities at the brigade and battalion level,” the Williamsburg, Virginia native said. “This allows us to do multiple operations simultaneously, thereby increasing the level of safety in our AO.”

Besides the obvious security-minded matters, there are other goals the 4th Brigade will work towards.

“We will support the Iraqi forces during the constitutional referendum and constitutional elections,” Col. Edward Cardon, commander, 4th Brigade, said. “We are working towards the day where there will be no Multi National Forces in Baghdad. This is why the training of the Iraqi Army is so important.

He continued, “What we are trying to build, the terrorists are trying to destroy. We are not working against time, we are working with the level of proficiency of the Iraqi battalions. Whether that is tomorrow or six months from now, when they are ready, they will assume responsibility.”

The Vanguard Brigade will also continue where 1st Cav.

Activation —————
road, and ambushed while commuting to the training facility, he said, but they continue to show up.

“A lot of them want to do something with their country and they have a lot of passion for that,” said Capt. Victor Ingram, an embed trainer from the 98th.

Soldiers of the brigade have set aside long-held differences to become a team, said Tennent.

Many were a part of the former Iraqi Army and are now working with the U.S. Army they once fought against.

Command Sgt. Maj. Abad al-Razaq, the 41st Brigade command sergeant major, fought against U.S. forces during Desert Storm.

“I must change my country for the best,” said al-Razaq, “I

left off, helping to raise the quality of life for the Iraqi people. 1st Cav. has done a tremendous job in helping the Iraqi people.

More than \$90 million has been focused on the improvement of essential services, such as sewers, fresh water delivery, electrical distribution and solid waste management along with numerous other projects, Murray said.

“Altogether these projects alone brought basic infrastructure necessities to more than 200,000 people in Karkh, Karadah and Zafaraniya and employed thousands of Iraqis from the neighborhoods where the projects were done,” Murray said.

Among the myriad of military operations conducted with the Iraqi security forces, Murray is extremely proud of watching the 302nd Iraqi Army Battalion develop from conducting squad level operations to battalion operations.

“Now as a part of the 40th Iraqi Army Brigade they are conducting fully independent operations and are completely responsible for the security in many areas of the Karkh district,” Murray said.

Of all the significant events Murray was privy to, he is most proud of the elections that occurred on Jan. 30.

“These were the first free, democratic elections in this country in over 50 years,” Murray said.

“Seeing normal Iraqi citizens, being protected by Iraqi Security Forces, heading to the polling stations, voting and waving their ink stained fingers despite terrorist threats was the most awe inspiring moment of my deployment here. I am profoundly grateful that I and my Soldiers were here to share and contribute what we could to accomplish one of the most historic moments in this proud country’s history,” he said.

Coffman believes the job set before the 4th Bde. will be that much easier, thanks to the unit they are replacing.

“The First Cav Division has made this transfer really simple, they have really set us up for success,” Coffman said. “It’s a difficult task, but due to the great communication between the two units. We are undoubtedly trained, capable and ready to accomplish this mission.”

from Page 1A
give it a better future. Not just me, I need help. Whose help? My friend: the American Army.”

Up to this point, trainers have focused on administration, logistics and noncommissioned officer and officer leadership, according to Ingram.

Among the scheduled training plans, they will include combat-oriented exercises.

Currently, only the headquarters element is assigned to the newly-activated brigade.

Tennent said no less than five battalions, however, are to be assigned between June and July.

Some of those Soldiers are already operating alongside coalition forces in combat operations.

Media from **Page 1A**

around 30,000 Soldiers. That not only includes 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers because two of our brigades are working with another division and it includes brigades from the Louisiana National Guard and Arkansas National Guard and a brigade from Fort Riley, Kansas.”

“While I think that it is unfortunate that these casualties have occurred, what we see right now is a decrease in the number of attacks on our Soldiers and an increase in our ability to find the Iraqis that are trying to execute these operations against our Soldiers and to find the explosives devices in many cases before they go off.”

“Over the coming months my expectation is that the number of casualties will go down.”

“We are doing everything in our power to decrease these casualties and even one is obviously tragic and significant to all of us. And we are working hard to keep that number down.”

Ques. — *How is the division stopping insurgent attacks?*

Ans. — “This is a very complex operation because the weapon of choice that our enemy is using is the improved explosive device and that is remotely detonated.”

“We have found them under the road, on the side of the road, in cars, in garbage bags, etc.”

“It’s a wide range of threats against our Soldiers and it’s a learning enemy that has a complex network of putting these devices together and using them.”

“As we are making improvements, they are also learning. At this point we are turning the corner on staying ahead of what they are doing.”

“We are training our Soldiers every night on what the latest trends and techniques being used by the enemy, so they can find these devices before the go off. We are finding 30 to 45 percent of them on any given day because of Soldier alertness or because of the technology we are using. We have some of the best minds in the Army working on this technology.”

“We have also armored all of our vehicles that are going on convoys. Many times devices explode but they don’t cause any casualties or damage. It takes deeply set human intelligence and technological intelligence to get inside these networks and find out who is doing all of the pieces of the operation and from what nodes.”

“What our focus will be over the next few weeks, other than training Iraqi security forces and killing terrorists, is going to be improving that intelligence to the point that we specifically attack the nodes that are causing these devices to kill and wound our Soldiers.”

Ques. — *What is the equipment situation?*

Ans. — “It is about as good as we can get it right now.”

“We have many times more armor in places we never imagined a couple years ago when we were in combat here.”

“We have had Soldiers survive gun shots to the chest that bounced off their plates. We have had Soldiers involved in vehicle accidents and survived because they were wearing all of their body armor and helmet. We

have had vehicles on a weekly basis that are shot at or grenades were thrown at. But, in all, hundreds of Soldiers are uninjured because of the protective equipment that we have got.”

“All the vehicles that leave the operating bases have additional armor placed on them. And on a weekly basis, manufacturers are adding additional armor to our vehicles, a dozen or so at a time, so that eventually we will have the best on every vehicle.”

“All of the up armored vehicles have saved lives across the board. As the number of devices we are finding increases, the number of injuries from them has decreased over the past six months.”

Ques. — *What is the relationship of Soldiers and the Iraqi people? What civil operations is the division conducting?*

Ans. — “What I have found is the average Iraqi person out there is very appreciative for the security that we have granted them.”

“They are appreciative that Saddam Hussein is gone and they are extremely proud of themselves that they held a successful democratic election.”

“Now there are some that don’t know what’s next because they have never had this kind of freedom and democracy before.”

“And one of the things we are doing is conducting operations using Iraqi information agencies and providing information to Iraqi journalists, so they can help tell the story of what democracy means and what the next step is in their process of writing a constitution and electing another government.”

“While there are pockets of people out there that hate us, there are thousands of Iraqis trying to get on with their lives and live a peaceful and prosperous life.”

“Some are intimidated by the terrorists and criminals. Some of them are threatened and have lost loved ones.”

“But they are extremely gratified that we are here trying to improve their lives, and especially gratified to get the Iraqi government and the Iraqi police and Army back on their feet.”

“But they don’t like an occupying power. There are some that resent the fact that we are here, but they don’t want us to leave.”

“Based on a survey of Iraqi people, most of them are appreciative for the success of their government up to this point, that Saddam is gone and that we are providing security among their growing Iraqi security forces.”

“An overwhelming percent believe instead of setting a time table, we should be looking to accomplish certain events and reach certain milestones before our departure and full sovereignty of the Iraqi government.”

“Most of them see that their lives are better now and they have responded that way and they believe it will get better in six and twelve months from now.”

“Also, the confidence of the Iraqi people has increased which has caused our tips to increase.”

“We have established a tips line so Iraqis can pass on a tip and we can determine action. In some cases acts of kindness to Iraqis has in return led them to tell Soldiers where explosives have been placed.”

Ques. — *What are the steps in place to communicate home to families?*

Ans. — “Every operating base over here has connections back to the United States where Soldiers can make morale calls and most of them have computers where they can get on and communicate with their families.”

“We have had some Soldiers conduct video calls and chat with there families over cyber cameras that we have installed at these bases.”

“Our Soldiers are also able to receive snail mail through the postal service and U.S. Army postal system. It is taking one to three weeks to receive packages back and forth.”

“In most cases they have access to telephones and computers a couple times a week so they can communicate at no charge.”

“There are also contract civilian phone companies that sell phone cards and allow Soldiers to call back at their own expense if they choose to.”

Ques. — *What is the situation since the elections?*

Ans. — “Since the elections, attacks have decreased.”

“A number of the insurgent groups feel that since they didn’t participate in the elections they made a mistake.”

“We have gotten word through sources that the Sunnis made a mistake for boycotting the elections and didn’t get a voice. They want to participate in the writing of the constitution.”

“There are some groups that continue their operations. Since the attacks are down, we can focus our intelligence on these nodes and lines of operations that they enemy is using.”

“I am optimistic that things will continue to improve over the next four to six months, especially since we have Iraqi units fighting alongside us and occupying their own piece of Baghdad for the first time ever.”

Ques. — *How is the training of Iraqi forces?*

Ans. — “We have nearly 600 interpreters and advisors working with us.”

“What we find is that many of the things that motivate our Soldiers to join the Army motivate the Iraqi Soldiers to join. They want to make something better out of their life. They want to learn discipline. They want to do something that is noble and appreciated by their people. They want to make a better life for themselves by earning some money that they might not be able to make on the outside.”

“Young Iraqis are signing up in numbers to join the Iraqi Army because in spite of the threats and the dangers, they are encouraged by their families and by the men and women that served before them and they are inspired by seeing American Soldiers doing their work.”

“You’ve got Soldiers opening a health clinic and treating Iraqi children to dental and health care and in another place they are handing out backpacks and school supplies to cheers and tears from Iraqi students and teachers.”

“And the next report will be about conducting offensive operations with a cordon and search in a neighborhood where they have captured six or seven known terrorists.”

“We have also putting some of these captured terrorists to trial. These trials are conducted by Iraqi law, under Iraqi judges, being heard with Iraqi lawyers.”